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Date: April 15, 2011

CORNELL NOTETAKING

Key Words

The wheel for transportation

Improve the process of pottery making

Produce copper in quantities large enough to make tools and weapons

Irrigate Fields

Study the Stars

Develop Engineering Skills

Develop an Efficient numbering system

Main Ideas/Supporting Ideas

- Used in Mesopotamia c.3250 B.C.E.
- First used to make pottery, still used today
- Later used plows, carts, or chariots
- Also used kiln (enclosed oven for making pottery/bricks)
- Kiln could produce very high temperatures
- Pottery and bricks baked in kiln stronger and more durable than ones dried in the sun
- Combined copper with tin to produce bronze
- Bronze used to make tools that were stronger than ones made of just copper
- These superior tools allowed Sumerians to build bigger and stronger boats and vehicles
- Improved transportation Sumerians could trade with people in far away places
- First people may have carried water from rivers to fields
- Dug channels and canals which allowed water to flow from rivers to fields
- Priests calculated best time for tilling fields, planting, and harvesting crops
- Created calendar with two seasons: summer, winter
- Calendar based on phases of the moon, consisted of 12 months
- Used knowledge of mathematics to build huge temples and complex systems of canals, dikes and ditches
- Used by mathematicians and astronomers until the 1600s
- System used today for measuring angles and time
- Clay tablets that date to c.3000 B.C.E. show 5 barrels of oil shown by symbol for all drawn 5 times
- Cities grew needed to keep track of economic activities
- Sumerians developed system that separated symbol of item from amount
- System helpful with large quantities

Connections and Reflections (Summary)

The systems they used in Mesopotamia are still used today by people in the modern world. Even though we use some of the same tools and methods as the Sumerians we also have made modifications to make them our own. I myself have used a kiln to make pottery. Farmers also use carts to put their harvest in.